

AFU Newsletter

Issue 42 -- Dec. 2001 -- ISSN 0283-6378

Published by: Archives for UFO Research Foundation (AFU), P O Box 11027, S-600 11 Norrköping, Sweden

Influx of materials to AFU, plans for yet another archive

Year 2001 is soon at an end. I will take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks from the board and associates of the AFU foundation for all of your great support in the past. We wish you *A Merry Christmas* and *A Happy New Year*, although I realise that this newsletter probably will not reach many of you, *in far-off places such as Japan or Tasmania*, until the end of January 2002. But, even then the New Year will still be young and hopefully promising.

Right now AFU is looking into the possibility of renting yet another basement locality, in a neighbouring house, just about 30 meters walk from the main archives. This being yet another 600 square feet premises, it would be suitable for archival storage. The obstacle is mainly an economical one. We need an increased input of between 500 and 1.000 Swedish kronor (equal to 50-100 US dollars or ECU per month) to pay for increased rents. If possible we would also like to keep on to *both* of our previous localities. A "reserve plan" is to let go of our oldest archive, which is only about 350 square feet, but this will involve a complicated move and will not be the best solution for the future.

So, if you know of someone who would be enthusiastic to regularly support a Swedish-Scandinavian-European-International folkloric archive specialised on UFOs, please put your best recommendations before her or him. Or, maybe you yourself would be able to support us with 50 dollars, once each year?

Ten or twelve of you would save the situation, and help save many UFO-related collections in the future. Currently we have some 20 *Swedish* supporters, mostly ufologists and UFO groups, who jointly contribute the equivalent of 300 US dollars we need each month to keep business up

and running. A 25-40 % increase would guarantee future development of this great collection.

I cannot see a situation where the flow of materials to our archives would seize. This summer the archives added 68 meters of shelves. In early December another four book shelves, some 20 metres, were added. Main reason for the latter was the acquisition of the *Bruno R. Ericsson* collection, which is truly unique, particularly as it mirrors contactee literature in the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's, an era previously not so well-covered by the archives.

The Ericsson book collection added more than 100 completely new titles to our shelves, and



Parts of the Bruno R Ericsson book collection in November, before sorting and cataloguing started.

generated several hundred 2nd and 3rd copies of titles previously catalogued. The magazine collection had an unusually high "hit rate" of NEW material, between 40 and 50 % of the serials were new to us. Ericsson spent a small fortune on buying commercial American and English UFO magazines in Stockholm stores, but also on journal subscriptions.

Cataloguing of the Ericsson collection was not quite complete as yet another great addition arrived from AFU sponsor *Ole Jonny Braenne* of Oslo, who is the new chairman of *UFO-Norway*. Fifteen boxes of Norwegian collections which, at

the time of this writing, is largely hiding it's secrets to us.



15 boxes of UFO material from UFO-Norway, in between the shelves of the AFU archives.

With earlier collections from both Norway and Denmark, and regular gifts from ufologists in Finland, the AFU archives is becoming more and more of a Scandinavian repository.

Anders Liljegen

Swedish writer supports AFU

Crime novel author *Liza Marklund*, one of the present best sellers among Swedish authors, with an international career coming, was interviewed by *Expressen*, one of the evening newspapers, on October 12. Questioned about how she was spending all her money - *she recently received 6-7 millions Swedish kronor* - more than half a million USD - as an advance payment for three new books - she stated, "*I sometimes support the Archives for UFO Research. They are serious researchers. I think that what they are doing is immensely important.*"

Marklund declares her firm "belief" in UFOs. "*This is nothing you can believe in, it is a matter of fact. About 4-5 per cent of sightings cannot be explained. That's what's interesting. What they are we don't know, I don't think we are visited by aliens from other worlds, but I think it is very*

fascinating that there might be natural phenomena which we are unaware of."

Liza Marklund has generously supported several of the whip-rounds for buying collections to AFU, organised by Clas Svahn, including the *Project Blue Book* microfilms bought from the *Sign Historical Group* in the US.

Review: The Anomalist issue no. 8

This Spring 2000 special issue of the *Anomalist* consists of free-standing chapters written by different ufologists.

Jerome Clark writes a prehistory of abductions. His thesis is that it might be a modern variant of old folklore.

Colin Bennett writes about *George Adamski's* mythic lecture tour of the world in 1959.

Interesting is that the *Father Gill* case from *Boianai, New Guinea*, happened just two months after Adamski visited Australia.

England was a success for GA. A young *Patrick Moore* (prime suspect to having written *Cedric Allingham's Flying Saucer from Mars*) made an interview with him. It is said that GA made it fine despite his inadequate knowledge of astronomy. Colin Bennett is clearly impressed by GA as a person. A charming and polite man. One has the feeling that GA had a certain mission to fill.

Patrick Huyghe, co-editor of the *Anomalist*, writes about the *Socorro* case, a real classic from 1964. He has interviewed *Lonnie Zamora*, at the age of 66. *Larry Robinson* has probably solved the case. All pieces of the puzzle fall into place, when you take part of his investigation. His explanations should be viewed critically, of course, but many ufologists (even serious ones) have hard to accept that a classical, almost holy, UFO case can get a simple and logical explanation. PH is a typical example of this. He thinks that Robinson has found a *possible* (written in italics) explanation and lists a number of arguments for this. Then he ends his chapter: "*The truth is we just don't know what Zamora saw that day in a Socorro ravine. Perhaps one day there will be an answer. But 35 years later, that day has still not come.*" By expressing yourself like that you can keep life in the UFO myth, apparently important for PH.

Karl T. Pflock revisits the *Aztec* case, *Scully, GeBauer* and Co. From an anonymous source he

has received previously unknown documents authored by *Silas Newton* with the purported truth about the Aztec case.

There is more to read in the *Anomalist*. All in all, this is a broad and rather readable collection.

Sven-Olov Svensson



Sven-Olov Svensson, here with the new acquisitions of UFO magazines through the Bruno Ericsson collection. Sven-Olov is archivist at Archives for UFO Research and nowadays an "interested skeptic" of the UFO problem. His other interests include unsolved crimes like the assassination of Olof Palme (Swedish prime minister).

New MJ-12 documents

One of the latest additions to AFU is a file folder, *New MJ-12 documents*, printed from the internet (www.majesticdocuments.com) by Clas Svahn. The folder also contains, mainly sceptical, commentaries from net sources (*Saucer Smear*, *UFO Historical Review*) on the new set of documents promoted with great frenzy by father and son *Robert* and *Ryan Wood*. As usual the documents come from an even more obscure source, *Tim Cooper*. We may wonder, who the heck goes to the trouble of first authoring, then printing, the *Majestic-12 Group Special Operations Manual*, then making photographed copies of same to make it appear the photos were taken in secrecy. Well, the world is full of nuts, providing nuts for us others to crack open, or...?

Project Open Book

In the period April 1994 - April 1995 *Omni Magazine* published a series of UFO articles under the caption *Project Open Book* - of course a travesty of *Project Blue Book*. Patrick Huyghe and Dennis Stacy (their next project being The

Anomalist magazine) wrote the core of the Open Book material.

Clas Svahn has collected & copied the series into a single reference binder now available as part of the *Omni* collection at the archives. Some Open Book material is still available on the web (www.omnimag.com) despite the demise of *Omni*. AFU has 37 odd issues of the monthly *Omni* covering the period April 1980 - Dec. 1994 but would gladly accept donations of issues not held.

CIA documents file

Reprinted from CIA's own FOIA Internet web site (www.foia.ucia.gov) this is another file folder of more genuine, but mostly less sensational, unclassified UFO documents, now available at AFU for researchers.

Much of the information emanates from communist countries, mainly the Soviet Union and China. Although much of it comes from open media sources, there may still be gems in this heavy mass of texts, since the CIA is one of few groups in the world with enough lingual expertise to cover the east-Bloc territories effectively. There is also quite a lot of material related to the Robertson and Condon investigations in this volume.

Another new AFU file: Official Ghost Rocket documents in US archives

This new AFU archive is the combined, and chronologically ordered, result of many years of archives searches, in the US, by *Jan Aldrich*, who has kindly sent us document copies throughout the years.

The large number of documents forced us to divide the material into two volumes, one covering materials dated 1946, another covering ghost rockets during 1947-1955. This summer, we found the time to put the collection into chronological order.

Jan Aldrich has provided a chronological listing of what he has found. The folders have also been completed with Aldrich's IUR article on *Investigating the ghost rockets* (IUR, Winter 1998) and internet correspondence with Jan. Most documents come from Air Force and Navy intelligence, and internal US intelligence newsletters. One of the highlights is the report of

a 1949 East German ghost rocket crash, which seems to have been less 'ghostly' than it's Scandinavian counterparts.

Recent new exchanges

◆ *Strange Times*, Unit 2A, East Cheap, Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE6 5UA, UK. Editor: Gloria Heather Dixon. Email: HeatherD77@aol.com. This zine follows the modern rule of "at least one picture on each page" - "no matter if they have any relationship to the text or not". First perplexed, I then start to enjoy the game. Thinking first, from the appearance of this mag, "it must be all New Age", I soon have to change my mind.

The definite change comes after reading the editor's splendid interview with *Judy Jafaar*, vice chairman of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), an interview that underlines the respect you have to feel for BUFORA, this age-old institution in ufology. Mrs. Jafaar speaks from the long experience as one of the heads of the *BUFORA Witness Support Group*, which, some ten years ago, made you wonder where BUFORA was heading, especially with *John Spencer* as the propagandist of so called "witness-steered" ufology.

Now Judy Jafaar has come out of the experience as a *definite skeptic* to the idea of witness support groups and to the use of hypnosis on purported "abduction witnesses". To learn the ropes, she is presently taking the final steps in becoming a professional hypnosis therapist herself.

The thoughts of this lady on the psychology behind UFO experiences are very enlightening and I would recommend American conference organisers to try to book up Mrs. Jafaar for their agendas next summer - *if they dare*. This stuff is dynamite under the woolly dream pillows of Messrs. Hopkins, Mack and Strieber.

• *TUFOIC Newsletter*, P O Box 174, South Hobart, Tasmania 7004, Australia. Email: tufoic@netspace.net.au. A welcome return of this newsletter, from down under, in the AFU mailbox. Extremely down-to-earth, just the sightings reported to the centre and analysis thereof. TUFOIC has done the same job since 1965, which would seem almost unique. Website: <http://tufoic.n3.net>.

• *OVNI*, Journal of the Phenomenon Research Association (PRA), Omar Fowler, 94 The Circle, Sinfin, Derby DE24 9H, UK. Another down-to-earth newsletter produced by one of the veterans of British ufology. Specialises on Flying Triangle (FT) reports, from the UK and world-wide. Sept/Oct issue has report of 1953/54 radar sighting -- this period saw many radar reports, also in Sweden. Press release from British abduction researchers announcing that 20.000 UK citizens may be abductees.

• *Lumières dans la Nuit*, Revue d'Ufologie, published by Joël Mesnard, BP3, 86800 Saint-Julien-l'Ars, France. A classical UFO journal in it's 43rd year of publication. Without all LDLN translations in the *Flying Saucer Review*, throughout the years, readers of only the English language would know very little about this magazine, nowadays in European A4 format. In issue 362 *Jean Sider* writes about UFO "crashes of nothing", including Scandinavian cases from the 1934 and 1946. While *FSR* has largely wandered off into the direction of sensation & speculation, *LDLN* seems to hold on to the publication of down-to-earth case materials. Honour to them.

International UFO literature

The real wealth and breadth of the UFO-related literature is not known, or at least it is probably underestimated. Very little is being done to save - in one place - copies of books, magazines, videos etc. that is being produced commercially, or even handcrafted on a more idealistic scale, from every nation of this globe.

Most countries, of course, have their national libraries and legislation requiring the sending of duty copies to some central institutions. There may also be some eccentric millionaire, somewhere, who has the collection of *international UFO literature* (and by that I do not mean purely the literature in the English language) as his hobby. We don't know, and chances are small that such a collection will be kept together and made publicly available for research in the future.

The combined *national* media productions on UFOs and UFO-related subjects are probably in the range of between 500 and 1.000 titles each year, national translations of foreign works counted. In Sweden alone we have about a

handful of such book titles per year. The sociological and folkloric dimensions that could be gleaned from such a collection are immense.

AFU is trying to encourage authors of UFO-related works, *or their publishers*, to send complimentary, or review, copies to AFU, probably the most well stocked, publicly available UFO repository anywhere in the world. Each new title will be

- 1) catalogued by author/publisher in the AFU annual acquisition lists,
- 2) classified by general and sub-theme codes from AFU's own *Ufocode* classification scheme, and thereby be retrievable by computer, and,
- 3) saved for posterity in Norrköping, Sweden, one of the most peaceful places in this world (last intervention here was in 1719 when the Russians burnt down the city ;-)), and cared for by a team of people with long-time interests in the UFO subject.

The AFU foundation has a clause in its rules requiring the collection to be left with the Royal Library of Stockholm in case the foundation should cease operation, a most unlikely happening.

AFU often receives very welcome copies of unique national UFO-related books such as the following examples:

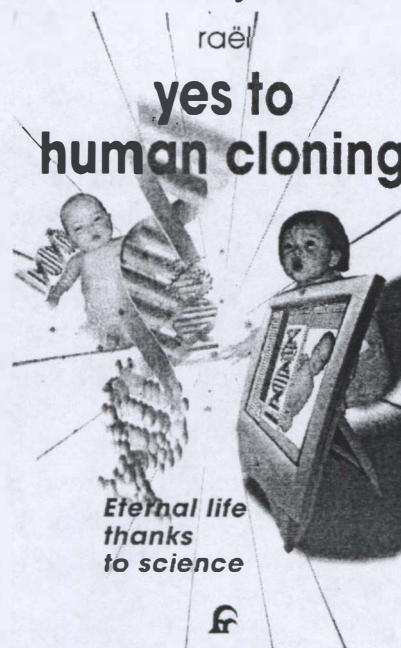
From Brazil comes, via a Brazilian contact of Clas Svahn, *Seqüestros alienigenas*, by Mário Rangel, a compilation of Brazilian UFO cases, mostly abductions and contacts, and most of them (35 cases) studied under hypnosis. Each case forms a separate chapter. My Portuguese is non-existent but from illustrations and keywords in the text it is evident that Brazilian UFO abduction folklore has copied many ingredients from American UFO lore. The book comes in a series of titles published by CBPDV, the *Brazilian Center for Study of Flying Saucers*.

Another year 2001 title, a 400+ pages tome, is the Finnish *Tosiasioita UFO-ilmiöstä* (I twisted my tongue on that title) by Björn Borg (who is, incidently, not the famous Swedish tennis player, but a ufologist from Finland). Published by *UFO-Finland*, one of the two national UFO groups in that country, this is a comprehensive chronology of international ufology, starting with year 1235 and ending in 1999. Well, 'international' is too much of a word. The bulk of the text concentrates on the US and their investigations.

The text has, strangely, not a single entry for 1946, although the Scandinavian ghost rockets are regarded, even in the US, as a ufology landmark.

UFO-connected cults are the subjects of a series of pamphlets received from *Jean-Francois Mayer*, Swiss historian who was called upon as an expert on the *Order of the Solar Temple* cult after the mass suicides in Switzerland in 1994.

Pamphlets received include



"Religious movements and the Internet: The New Frontier of cult controversies", being a reprint of an article from the journal *Religion and the Social Order*. This of course concerns *Heaven's Gate* and other apocalyptic movements.

"Our terrestrial journey is coming to an end": The last voyage of the Solar Temple, is another of Mayer's booklets / articles, now added to the AFU library, reprinted from *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*. Another reprint is *Les sauveurs venus de l'espace: croyance aux extraterrestres et religions soucoupistes* which scans the worlds of theosophy and the early American contactees.

A forth title with a contribution by Mayer, is a German 1997 compilation, *Endzeitfieber: Apokalyptiker, Untergangs-profeten, Endzeitsekten*, edited by Hans Gasper and Friederike Valentin.

On the margin of ufology is also Claude Vorilhon's latest book *Yes to human cloning*, a copy of which has just been added to the AFU library.

One might wonder what the *Council of Secular Humanism* thinks about the Raelian use, as an appendix of this book, of their *"Declaration in Defence of Cloning and the Integrity of*

Research", signed by skeptic world luminaries like *Paul Kurtz* and *Johan Galtung*. Strange alliances sometimes form...

From the US comes to the AFU archives a document of a very different nature, sent by researcher *Pat Bontempo* (315 Eighth Ave, #208, Asbury Park, NJ 07712). *The Helgoland crash: a dissection of a hoax*, is a 1994 source study of how the rumour of a UFO crash on the German island of Helgoland spread throughout the world from its origin in the US sensation magazine *Sir!* in September 1954. What makes me curious is the original author, or author pseudonym, *E. W. Grenfell*. *Who* was he? Samples of other work from his pen would possibly tell a lot.

AFU has just catalogued the huge *Bruno R Ericsson* books & magazines collection. This added at least 300 volumes and 100 new titles to our reference library - much of it in the contactee genre (including a full set of *Wendelle Stevens* "UFO" series of books).

The one book that I have chosen out of this tower of new books, is, however, a small booklet, *Meet the Extraterrestrial*, written by *Isabel L. Davis* and originally published in the Nov. 1957 issue of *Fantastic Universe*, then reprinted in 1984 by *Armand Laprade*. This may not have seemed like a major contribution to ufologists of those early days of Adamskianism and contactee belief, but it is. "*Why do books that "fall apart in the hand" as they are read, or crumble into arrant nonsense under any kind of examination, find publishers and a market?*", Davies asks after analysing eight contactee books. "*I suspect that many believers have not really read the books at all, in any critical sense of the word, but have formed their judgments from the impressive or "sincere" platform manner of contactee lecturers: the books are bought but never closely examined.*"

Anders Liljegen

Fate Magazine in new hands

The traditional American "mysteries" magazine *Fate Magazine* has, once again, shifted owner. Founded by *Curtis and Mary Fuller* in 1948, it was sold 40 years later to *Carl Weschcke* and his *Llewellyn* publishing company. Late this past summer the rights were sold to *Phyllis Galde*, the present editor-in-chief. The September edition has, among other UFO interesting stuff, a

discussion about the psychological mechanisms behind UFO sightings, focusing on a sighting of a UFO that turned out to be an airliner.

Recent visitors to the archives

◆ *Håkan Fenander*, ufologist and aviation historian, visited us on October 7. Fenander is an AFU sponsor since 1993. He shared an audio tape and text information on his recent investigation of a 'new' Swedish contactee case, a man who had also been in the military during the 1930's ghost flier radio reconnaissance. Fenander also shared copies and information on matters such as the *Avrocar* project and the *Fugo* balloons.

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■ **Archives for UFO Research** is a non-profit, private foundation, aiming to build a Swedish-International UFO library and research archive; to support and encourage serious research; and to stimulate a critical, scientific discussion on UFO phenomena.

■ **Membership in Sweden:** by annual donation of 150 SEK each year to postal giro no 49 07 14-3, or by annual donation of materials for the archive equivalent to 150 SEK.

■ **International exchanges:** we are always interested in exchange deals with publishers of newsletters, journals, monographs or other media. The Newsletter is NOT available through subscription outside of Sweden. Materials you send us will always be catalogued and saved for posterity, and future research, at the archives.

■ **Sponsorship:** Sponsorship of the AFU foundation is most welcome, whether you live in Sweden, or in any other country. Minimum annual donation by sponsors is 600 SEK (or equal amount in any other currency), but more substantial monetary donations are, of course, welcome, as well as donations / depositions of records & materials related to the UFO subject (*single pieces or collections* of books, newsletters, magazines, reports, clippings, photos, audio & video recordings, microfilms, etc)